"BLOOD ALLEY" CLASH UP IN COMMONS

Fight Between British Soldiers, Italian Bluejackets

EDEN SAYS INCIDENT SETTLED AMICABLY

LONDON, March 1.—The recent clash between Italian sailors and British soldiers in a cabaret on Rue Chu Pao San, Shanghai, known locally as "Blood Alley," was discussed in the House of Commons today.

The subject was raised by Mr. W. A. Burke, Labour Member for Burnley, who asked whether the attention of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, had been drawn to the attack by Italian naval men on soldiers belonging to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and whether he proposed to make representations to the Italian Government on the matter.

Replying, Mr. Eden detailed the affair.

"I understand," he added, "that the incident has been amicably settled by the respective commanders. Italian sailors visited the injured Britons in hospital with presents, and are inviting a party of British troops to an entertainment aboard their gunboat. The last part of the question, therefore, does not appear to arise."—Reuter.

Outcome Of Isis Fray

The clash referred to above took place on Sunday night, February 21, and was attributed to a squabble over a woman which culminated in hot remarks being passed by the Britons over the alleged poor sportsmanship of the Italians who wrecked the Isis Theatre the night previously. Battle began with a few men in one cabaret but soon spread the length of the cabaret street, involving some 80 men.

Bars and various other weapons beside fists were employed in the fight, with the result that three British soldiers suffered painful injuries and had to be confined to hospital. The fight was finally broken up by French Police in co-operation with military police squads.

RUE CHU PAO SAN IN THE LIMELIGHT

We have it on the authority of Holy Writ that "evil communications corrupt good manners" but sometimes we are almost led to the belief that rapid communications are injurious to commonsense. Thus, the matter of the clash between Italian sailors and British soldiers a few days ago in a cabaret in the Rue Chu Pao San at Shanghai, sometimes referred to as "Blood Alley," was raised in the House of Commons on Monday by Mr. W. A. Burke, Labour Member for Burnley, who wanted to know, *inter alia*, whether the Foreign Secretary proposed to make representations to the Italian Government on the incident. Fortunately, Mr. Eden was able to reply that he understood that the incident had been amicably settled by the respective commanders. Italians sailors had visited the injured Britons in hospital with presents, and were inviting a party of British troops to an entertainment aboard their gunboat. The last part of Mr. Burke's question, that is to say, with reference to making representations to the Italian Government, therefore did not appear to arise. This local settlement is, of course, just what should be, and we do not believe for a moment that the slightest political significance arises in such a cabaret incident. Such isolated incidents will arise from time to time and their settlement by the local commanding officers is the proper way to deal with them. If there had been any suggestion of constant serious friction between the armed forces of Britain and Italy in Shanghai, or any other port, it might have been necessary to make it a question for Governments to consider but happily this is not the case.

SPECIAL BRANCH -3 MAR 1937 SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

19703

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Shanghai "Blood Alley" Clash Discussed In Commons; Incident Involving Italian, British Service Men Settled, Eden Says

(Reuter's Agency)

LONDON, Mar. 1.—The recent clash between Italian sailors and British soldiers in a cabaret on Rue Chu Pao San, Shanghai, known locally as "Blood Alley," was discussed in the House of Commons today.

The subject was raised by Mr. W. A. Burke, Labor Member for Burnley, who asked whether the attention of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, had been drawn to the attack by Italian naval men on soldiers belonging to the Loyal (North Lancashire) Regiment, and whether he proposed to make representations to the Italian Government on the matter.

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DAH 3/2

19506
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 25

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1937

SUNDAY'S INCIDENT AMICABLY CLOSED

Italian, British Authorities in Agreement

Yesterday a conference between the British and Italian authorities took place and it was agreed that the unfortunate clash on Sunday night between men of the Loyal Regiment and naval ratings from the Italian gunboat Lepanto was the outcome of the previous evening's disturbance. So far as could be ascertained by the authorities, the number of Italian sailors involved was not more than twelve, the British soldiers being six in number, although it was possible that other parties became involved.

Both parties agreed that there was no fighting in the street. As a result of these investigations, the Brigadier of the British Military Forces and the Italian Naval Commander considered that the incident was amicably closed.

Yesterday morning, an officer of the Lepanto, accompanied by six Italian sailors, paid a friendly visit to the British Military Hospital, 24 Central Road, where the two injured men were being treated, and left flowers and sweetmeats with message of sympathetic enquiry. The two soldiers are expected to leave the hospital by the end of the week.

26 FEB 1937

7808

February 24 37.

Dear Rennie,

Reference to your note of February 24, I send herewith the original statement in French with a translation into English.

The solution you suggest appears the best under the circumstances and it is satisfactory that the Italians have made some gestures of friendship and regard the affair as at least undesirable.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) K. M. Bourne.

Captain T.G. Rennie,
Brigade Major,
British Military HQs,
Tifeng Road.

25 FEB

TELEPHONE
30070

BRITISH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS
TIFENG ROAD
SHANGHAI

24 Feb 37.

Dear Bourne,

I wonder if you would be good enough to let me have a translation of the attached ~~evidence~~ statement from Blanchet.

I have the gist of it but would like a correct translation for record purposes. My translation may not bring out the finer points!!

Blanchet's evidence is the only reliable and impartial evidence obtainable so the Brigadier has decided to close the matter. under the heading

of an unfortunate clash between
light spirited Italians and
British Soldiers. The Italian
Commander is coming here
this afternoon and the incident
we hope will be closed.
The Italians have been
considerate and apologetic and
the only course ~~to~~ in view of
the absence of ~~quick~~ any evidence
that the British Soldiers were
attacked, is to make friends and
~~of~~ avoid a recurrence.

Yours

Sincerely

[illegible]

Translation from French

The Chef-Adjoint de la Garde

To Monsieur le Directeur des Services de Police.

\- - -

I have the honour to make a statement of facts witnessed by me on Sunday, February 21, when a fighting took place between Italian sailors and British soldiers at the Charleston Cafe, Rue Chu Pao San.

I arrived to Rue Chu Pao San at about 9.15 p.m., having been informed by the Officer i/c Post Mallet that during the Saturday night there had already been some altercations between Italian sailors and British soldiers. The police on duty in the street was increased and included Sub-Inspector Manneville, i/c of the section, Sgt. Choquet, Auxiliary Guard Tomashevsky, four Auxiliary Guards and several Chinese policemen. The Italian patrol consisted of two Non-Commissioned officers and two sailors, while two Non- Commissioned officers and 3 or 4 soldiers comprised the British patrol. Two altercations took place at the Frisco Cabaret at about 9.30 p.m. and 9.45 p.m. respectively between Italian sailors and British soldiers. They were of little importance and resulted in an exchange of several blows of fists. The order was promptly restored by the Italian and the British patrols and the Police. About 10 p.m. my attention was attracted by shouting coming from the Charleston Dance Hall. Accompanied by Sub-Inspector Manneville and other police officers I rushed to the place. Reaching the entrance at the same time as the British patrol, I saw 2 British soldiers being pushed out of the dance hall by 3 or 4 Italian sailors. Having entered the hall immediately, I saw on my left 3 or 4 Italian sailors attacking 2 or 3 British soldiers. One of the Italians was armed with a big club which appeared to me to be the leg of a chair. The British patrol hurried to rescue their men, being

almost immediately followed by the Italian patrol. The dancing partners of the establishment and several American sailors, who did not participate in the fighting, kept at the end of the cafe near the bar.

As shouting was audible from the lavatories at the farther end of the hall, I ran to that place followed by S.I. Manneville, and saw another Italian sailor armed with a big piece of wood, who endeavoured to penetrate into the lavatories where 2 British soldiers who had already been wounded, took a refuge. Upon being seized by S.I. Manneville, the sailor immediately turned round and was about to hit with his club when, upon an order shouted by the man in charge of the Italian patrol, he stopped. I ordered two policemen to clear the dancing hall with the assistance of the patrols, leaving in the place only the wounded British soldiers, the dancing partners and the American sailors. At the time when the hall was being cleared another small incident took place: the manager of the establishment received several blows of fist from an Italian sailor and the Police and the Italian patrol had again to intervene. The man in charge of the Italian patrol ordered his men to board an Italian Navy truck which was stationed in the Rue Chu Pao San in order to send them on board their ship. The man in charge of the British patrol got their wounded men together at the Lazare Bar, after which they were taken to the hospital in an ambulance. It should be noted that at the time the Police and the patrols intervened at the Charleston Cafe, there were in the place only 6 or 7 British soldiers, about 10 Italian sailors, and 3 or 4 American sailors (who did not take part in the fighting) and the personel of the establishment.

Following the entry of the two patrols into the hall, about 15 Italian sailors, who, no doubt, were attracted by the noise, also entered the cafe, but did not take part in the fighting, which had already been stopped. About 30 British soldiers who were in other dancing halls in the vicinity, did not interfere. There was no fighting outside the place.

No incidents took place after that time. The Italian patrol, however, remained in the street until midnight in order to send on board their ship any Italian sailors who might have arrived from other places

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No.

Shanghai Municipal Council.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
S. B. REGISTRY
S. B. D. 7808
Date 3 . . 37

POLICE FORCE.
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.
P. O. BOX NO. 158.

February 24 1937.

Dear Rennie,

Your note of February 23, 1937.

As spoken by phone, I am sorry we cannot help you in regard to the affray in Rue Chu Pao San. The matter is in the hands of the French Police and we can thus hardly initiate separate investigation: furthermore at this date it is very unlikely we could obtain any evidence of value not more easily obtainable by the French Police.

If any information should come to our knowledge you will be immediately informed.

Yours sincerely,

Vivian Bowen

File

Captain T. G. Rennie,
Brigade Major,
British Military Headquarters,
Tifeng Road.

February 24 37.

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Yours sincerely,

Captain T. G. Rennie,
Brigade Major,
British Military Headquarters,
Tifeng Road.

British Military Headquarters,
Tifeng Road,
Shanghai.

23rd February, 1937.

Dear Bourne

I rang up Ross this morning in connection with the affray between the Italian sailors and the Loyals.

I enclose for your information - the report from Commandant Fabre and the statements we have collected from witnesses.

As you see, the evidence of the British soldiers point to an unprovoked attack. Fabre's report is non-committal. The statement by the manager of the Charleston Cafe is of little value.

The fact that the incidents on Saturday occurred shortly after the Isis Theatre show is to some extent circumstantial that the Italians initiated the disturbances. There is, however, no definite and unbiased evidence that the attack by the Italian sailors on Sunday was unprovoked.

In view of the fact that British soldiers were injured, the Brigadier considers that every effort should be made to obtain evidence as to whether the attack was, or was not, provoked.

Could you please let me know if you can obtain any further information which can give a bearing on the incident.

Yours
Sincerely
Lalemie.

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.,
Headquarters,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
185 Foochow Road,
SHANGHAI.

Shanghai,

22nd February, 1937.

To Brigadier Telfer-Smollett,
Commanding British Forces,
Shanghai Area.

Dear General,

I have the honour to inform you that on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February several rows took place in different dancing haunts in CHU PAO SAN ROAD between Italian Marines and British soldiers.

What took place at the Charleston Cafe on Saturday did not appear to be very serious and only amounted to a few blows. Order was immediately restored on the arrival of the French Police and the English and Italian Patrols.

The incidents on Sunday night were more serious. After two incidents of no importance at the Frisco Cabaret, a much more serious one developed at the Charleston Cafe about 10.p.m. At the time when the Police, followed by the English and Italian Patrols entered the Cafe a veritable battle was going on between 5 or 6 Italian Marines and about an equal number of British soldiers. It appeared that at least two of the Italian Marines used large sticks to hit the English soldiers with. Five English soldiers had been more or less wounded, three of them had been sent to Hospital. At the moment when the Police, assisted by the Patrols, emptied the Cafe, an Italian hit the Manager of the Charleston. He was almost immediately hauled away by the Commander of the Italian Patrol. After these incidents the man i/c Italian Patrol ordered his men to get into a bus which was awaiting them, and saw them all in. The five wounded English soldiers were, at the command of the man in charge of their Patrol, sent to Hospital in an ambulance.

We do not know what the origin was of the argument which rapidly developed into a fight. We do not propose to find out. We must draw certain conclusions from from the incident, to which I would respectfully draw your attention.

In the first place, the Military Patrols, as a matter of fact, give excellent results when they are concerned with taking slightly drunk soldiers back to Barracks, but they are not much use for intervening in more serious rows because they too easily take sides for their own nationals, which after all is only human, but the row will thus become more serious.

The only answer would be, if we fear the recurrence of such incidents, to organise mixed Patrols composed of picked Police and N.C.Os of each nationality.

I should be very grateful if you would give me your xxxxx opinion of this formula for complete neutrality.

A second.....

22 Février 1937.

Le Chef de Bataillon L. FABRE
Directeur des Services de Police

au Brigadier-General TELFER-SMOLETT

Commanding, British Forces
Shanghai Area

CHANGHAI.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le samedi 20 et le dimanche 21 Février, plusieurs bagarres ont éclaté dans différents dancings de la rue Chu Pao San, entre marins italiens et soldats anglais.

Les incidents qui ont eu lieu samedi au Charleston Café ne paraissent pas très sérieux, et se réduisent à un échange de coups de poings. L'ordre fut rétabli immédiatement à l'arrivée sur les lieux de la Police Française et des patrouilles anglaise et italienne.

Les incidents de dimanche soir ont été plus sérieux. Après deux algarades sans importance au Frisco Cabaret, une bagarre beaucoup plus sérieuse se produisit au Charleston Café vers 22 heures. Au moment où la Police pénétra dans le café, suivie immédiatement par les patrouilles anglaise et italienne,

... ...

une véritable bataille mettait aux prises 5 ou 6 marins italiens et un nombre à peu près égal de soldats anglais. Il fut constaté que 2 au moins des marins italiens utilisaient de gros bâtons pour frapper les soldats anglais. 5 soldats anglais avaient été plus ou moins blessés, 3 d'entre eux auraient été admis à l'hôpital. Au moment où la Police aidée des patrouilles, faisait évacuer le café, un marin italien frappa le manager du Charleston. Il fut presqu'aussitôt maîtrisé par le Chef de la patrouille italienne. A la suite de ces incidents, le Chef de la patrouille italienne ordonna à ses hommes de se rassembler dans un camion qui les attendait, et les fit rentrer à bord. Les 5 soldats anglais blessés furent, sur l'ordre de leur chef de patrouille, envoyés à l'hôpital dans une ambulance.

Nous ne connaissons pas les origines de l'altercation qui s'est rapidement transformée en bataille. Nous ne cherchons pas à les connaître. Mais nous devons tirer de cet incident des enseignements sur lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'attirer respectueusement votre attention.

En premier lieu, les patrouilles militaires, telles qu'elles fonctionnent actuellement, donnent d'excellents résultats lorsqu'il s'agit de renvoyer à la caserne des soldats légèrement excités, mais elles sont de peu d'utilité lorsqu'elles interviennent dans les bagarres car elles prennent trop facilement parti, et cela est d'ailleurs humain, pour leurs propres ambiances. La bataille devient alors plus sérieuse. Le seul remède serait

... ...

lorsque nous craignons des incidents, d'organiser des patrouilles mixtes, composées de gradés de la Police et de sous-officiers de chaque nationalité. Je vous serais reconnaissant de me donner votre opinion sur cette formule de neutralité maximum.

Une deuxième conclusion s'impose, c'est qu'il est absolument indispensable, dans des cas comme celui-ci, de donner à la discipline une force supérieure à celle de l'échauffement des esprits, même si ce dernier est justifié. Cela évitera de faire jouer à notre Police un rôle profondément ingrat, rôle qu'elle n'assume que lorsqu'elle y est contrainte, et qu'elle préférerait voir remplacer par un esprit de camaraderie internationale qu'ici nous désirons de toutes nos forces. Mais ce résultat ne peut être réalisé que par une entente entre les divers commandements.

En vous demandant de me donner votre avis sur ces suggestions, qui n'ont d'autre but que de mettre fin à des mécontentements regrettables et de maintenir l'ordre public dans les quartiers fréquentés par les militaires de toutes nationalités, veuillez agréer, Mon Général, l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus respectueux./.

REPORT

To:-
The D.A.P.M.,
Shanghai Area.

Sir,

I have to report that at Shanghai on the 21st. February 1937 at about 10.25 p.m., I was on duty in Cabaret Street where I saw a crowd rushing into the Charleston Cabaret. I followed and there I saw about fourty Italian Sailors and about ten British Soldiers.

The Cabaret resembled a battle-field; British Soldiers were nursing injuries caused by batons used by the Italian Sailors.

The injured British Soldiers, five of them, were conducted to "Steves" Coey Cafe to await the arrival of an ambulance to conduct them to the British Military Hospital; They were as follows:-

No.3951633 Pte. S. Bennett, "D" Coy.,
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.
(Severe head injuries).

No.3952705 Pte. J. Robinson, H.Q.Wing,
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.
(Swollen jaw, stated that he was struck by an Italian Sailor whilst dancing)

No. 4796007 Pte. Pomfret, "D" Coy.,
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.
(Badly cut lip, stated that he was struck three times on face and head by Italian Sailors. He also stated that the Italian Naval Patrol struck him with a baton).

No. 3395867 Pte. E. Heathcote, "D" Coy.,
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.
(Stated that he had been hit on head with a baton by one of Italian Naval Patrol; also struck with a chair).

No. 3955194 Pte. W. Grayshaw, "D" Coy.,
2nd. Bn. The Loyal Regt.
(Fore-arm cut, stated that he had been struck on arm and head by baton, used by one of the Italian Naval Patrol).

The ambulance arrived about 10.50 p.m. and conducted the five soldiers to the B.M.Hospital.

The following three soldiers were detained:-

No.3851633 Pte. S. Bennett, "D"Coy.,

No.7858P05 " J. Robinson, R.Q.Wing,

No.8P6007 " Pomfret, "D"Coy.,

Pnd.Rn.The Royal Regt.

Lieut. Blanchet, French Civilian Police, Central Police Station, informed me that he has no charge to prefer; he is rendering a report to the British Military Headquarters.

Lieut. Blanchet also stated that the Italian Naval Patrol did not use batons on British Soldiers.

The Italian Naval Patrol, commanded by a Petty Officer, belong to the R.N."Lepanto".

I did not see the occurrence, it had subsided when I entered the Cabaret.

Shanghai (Sd). L. GARDNER, Sergt.,

[illegible]/9/1937 Corps of Military Police.

To :-

The D.A.P.M.,
Shanghai Area.

Sir,

I have to report for your information that at SHANGHAI on the 21st February,1937, about 10-25 p.m. I was on duty in RUE CHUA POA SAN where I was called into the CHARLSTON CABARET.

I went in and a disturbance was taking place between Italian Sailors and Brtish Troops, several of the Italian Sailors had pieces of piping in their hands.

Five English soldiers were lying on the floor one of the soldiers was bleeding profusely from the head.

I imediatel ordered all the British soldiers to leave the cabaret and with the assistance of my patrol all the injured were taken to the Cosy Corner Cafe, were I rendered first aid, pending the arrival of the ambulance.

The five soldiers were taken to hospital. Ptes Bennett, Pomfret and Robinson of the 2nd.Bn.The Loyal Regiment were detained. Ptes Heathcote and Brayshaw were allowed to proceed to their barracks.

(Sd) R. THOMAS. Cpl.

Shanghai,
22/2/37. Corps of Military Police.

Statement made by No. 5858?P Pte. Heathcote E. 2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regiment.

On the 21st.February 1937 at about 10.15 p.m. I entered the Charleston Cabaret, Rue Chua Poa San.

At about 10.30 p.m. I was sitting at a table watching my friends, Privates Bomfret, Bragshaw and Robinson, dancing.

Suddenly about twenty(20) Italians (I recognised them by their uniforms) entered the Cabaret and set about all present, concentrating their efforts on the British Troops.

One Italian approached me and struck me on the arm and in self defence I knocked him over on to the floor with a chair.

I was able to keep the Italians at bay until the arrival of the Military and Civil Police.

(Sd). E. HEATHCOTE, Pte.

Taken down by me on the 22nd.February 1937.

(Sd). G. SMITH, Lieut.
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.

Statement made by No. 855194 Pte. Bradshaw, 2nd.Bn.The Loyal Regt.

On the 21st. February 1937 I visited the Charleston Cabaret Rue Chua Poa San at about 10.3 p.m. I was with Privates Pomfret, Robinson and Heathcote, of the 2nd.Bn.The Loyal Regiment.

A crowd of Italian Sailors (I recognised them by their Italian uniforms) were sitting on the far side of the Dance Hall. Pte. Pomfret and I got up to dance and it was then that I saw one of the Italians strike Pte. Robinson for no apparent reason.

This sailor was soon joined by what appeared to be a Patrol of Italian Sailors armed with batons.

They set about all British Soldiers present (about seven of us) I myself was struck on the head and the elbow. In self defence I tried to protect myself by using a chair.

In a short time the trouble was stopped by Military and Civil Policemen.

(Sd). W. BRADSHAW, Pte.

Taken down in my presence on 22nd.February 1937.

(Sd). C. Smith Lieut.
2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regt.

Statement made by No. 3854798 Pte Bound C.
2nd Bn. The Loyal Regiment.

On 21st February 1937 at about 7.45.p.m. I entered the CHARLESTON CABARET, Rue CHAO PAO SAN, in company with Pte Bennett.

At about 10.p.m. I was watching my friends dancing when suddenly a large crowd of Italians rushed into the Cabaret and set about the British troops (who seem to be the only men present) with batons.

The sudden attack was quite unexpected and beyond my apprehension.

I was attacked and before I could protect myself I was practically knocked out by a blow in the ribs and head.

As I was getting up to go for help the Police arrived on the scene.

(sd) C. BOUND. Pte.

Taken down on 22nd February, 1937 by Lieut C.J. Smith,
2/Loyal Regt.

No.3853994 Pte. Orchard A., 2nd Bn. The Loyal Regiment states:-

At Shanghai on the 20/2/1937 I was in the Charleston Cabaret in Rue Chua Poa San with about five other British Soldiers; there were also in the Cabaret about eighteen Italian Sailors sitting on the opposite side of the dance floor.

At aproximately 9.30 p.m. there was one British Soldier and one Italian Sailor only dancing on the dance floor. The Italian suddenly struck at the British Soldier dancing for no apparent reason. As this happened all the other Italians suddenly got up and rushed across the floor at us yelling and shouting and throwing chairs and tables at us.

The British Police Corporal and Two G.M.Ps. tried to stop the Italians but were unable to and the Police Corporal got knocked out in trying to do so. The Italian Police also interferred and order was eventually restored.

All the Italians were ordered out of the Cabaret. When they had gone out all my friends went to the latrine and I was left in the Cabaret by myself.

Suddenly I saw four Italians inside the Cabaret coming towards me and at the same time I saw the remainder of the Italians coming back in.

They went for me and I don't remember clearly what happened until I was told to get up as all was quiet again.

(Sd). A. W. ORCHARD, Pte.

Taken down at Shanghai on the 22/2/1937 by Lieut. E. H. Leschallas, 2nd.Bn. The Loyal Regiment.

(Sd). E.H.LESCHALLAS, Lieut.

No. 3445190 Pte. Vesty,W., Pnd.Sn. The Loyal Regiment states:-

At Shanghai on the 20/9/1937 I was in the Charleston Cabaret in the Rue Chua Poa San with about five other British Soldiers.

At aproximately 9.30 p.m. there was one British Soldier dancing and one Italian dancing on the dance floor; on the other side of the room there were about eighteen Italian Sailors sitting down at tables.

The Italian who was dancing suddenly struck at the British Soldier dancing for no apparent reason whatsoever as far as I could see.

At the same time all the Italian Sailors who were sitting at the other side of the room came across the dance floor towards the British Soldiers, shouting and yelling and started to throw chairs and tables at the British.

The British Police Corporal and two M.P.'s tried to interfer, but the Corporal w s knocked out. The Italian Police also came in and order was eventually restored.

All the Italians were ordered out of the Cabaret. I then went off to the latrine with about three or four other British Soldiers. There was one Italian in the latrine who immediately started arguing.

The Italian then walked out of the latrine by himself. I followed out soon after and I saw four Italians going towards Private Orchard who was by himself with obvious intent to hurt him.

At the same time all the other Italians came back into the Cabaret and then another rough house started.

I, then, found myself in the middle of the riot, on the floor with several Italians over me.

I don't remember anything else until I was picked up out side by a Military Policeman and sent to a nearby Polic Station where they took my particulars.

(Sd). W. VESTY, Pte.

Taken down at Shanghai on 22/9/1937 by Lieut. E. H. Leschallas, Pnd.Sn. The Loyal Regiment.

(Sd). E. H. Leschallas, Lieut.,

Statement by No. 3852024 Corporal D.M. CROWIN,
2nd. Bn. The Loyal Regiment.

- -

On 21st February, 1957, at about 10.p.m. I was in the Frisco Cabaret (corner of RUK CHU POA SAN and AVENUE EDWARD VII). I was dancing on the dance floor. There were only two couples. The other man was an Italian sailor. As we were dancing we brushed against each other. It was an accident. I made no attempt to touch him. I turned round to apologise, but before I had time to do so he struck me on the jaw and the mouth with his fist. He struck me about three times, and I fell to the ground. The attack was so sudden that I did not have time to defend myself. While I was picking myself up (I was in a dazed condition) I saw him run to pick up a chair. He picked the chair up, but at that moment the Italian Naval Patrol interfered and stopped him. I walked back to my seat.

When this incident happened it was the first time I had noticed this Italian. I had done nothing to provoke him, or any other Italian.

I was accompanied in the Frisco Cabaret by two Bandsmen (Bandsmen Garrity and Broomhead). I had left them to dance, and as we were occupying a table in the corner they did not witness the incident.

(sd) D.M. CROWIN. Corpl.

Taken down by me on 22nd February, 1957.

22.2.57.

Lieut.
D.A.P.M.

Statements made by Mr. Mossesians (an Armenian) the manager of the Charleston Cabaret.

No. 1.
20 - 2 - 1937.

I am sorry to inform you that an accident happened tonight at 10.15 p.m. at the Charleston Cafe.

A British Soldier danced with a girl and a Italian Sailer did the same. While dancing the Sailer pushed the Soldier.

Other Sailors came and a fight started with the three British Soldiers. A Military Policeman came and was struck by an Italian Sailer.

At 10.40 p.m. the Italian Sailer came again and started fight with British Soldiers.

The fight was stopped by the British Military Police.

I am,

Respectfully,

Manager.

No. 2.
20-2-1937.

I am the manager of the Charleston Cabarety (Rue Chun Poa Yan). I was in the Cabaret on the 21st. February 1937 at about 10.30 p.m. About five English Soldiers, and about ten Italian Sailors were in the Cabaret. One English Soldier and one Italian Sailer were dancing with girls. I went out to the lavatory. When I came back I saw an English Soldier fighting with an Italian Sailer. Then everybody joined in the fighting. The British Military and Italian Naval Patrols and the French Police then arrived and restored order. The Soldiers and Sailors were all ordered out of the Cabaret.

(Sd). A. MOSESIANZ.

Taken down by me on the 23rd. February 1937

(Sd). J. R. Jole, Lieut.,
D.A.P.M.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. C. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 7808
Date 24-2-37

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Tuesday, February 23, 1937

British, Italian Fighters Recover

Battle In Blood Alley Puts Cabaret Row Out Of Bounds

As a result of a miniature war between about 80 British soldiers of the Loyals Regiment, and naval ratings from the R. N. S. Lepanto, Italian gunboat now in Harbor, in Rue Chupaosan on Sunday evening, two British tommies are detained today in the Military Hospital, while several others are receiving attention to their hurts. The quarrel, which had its start on Saturday evening, is believed to have begun from some Tommies' remarks concerning the sportsmanship of Italian sailors in rioting in the Isis Theatre on Saturday afternoon.

Authorities are still making investigations, but no official statements were made. Owners of the bars and cabarets along Rue Chupaosan, the famed Blood Alley of Shanghai, would make no statements concerning the fight, which started out with two soldiers and two sailors and finally involved about 80 men in a street fight. Some eye-witnesses, however, stated that the fight began in the Charleston Cafe when an Italian sailor and British soldier came to blows when the sailor took the Tommie's girl away. Reinforcements were soon forthcoming, and the fight spread to the road, where French police and military and naval patrols succeeded in breaking up the fight after one British soldier was down with concussion of the brain, and several men of both sides suffered minor injuries.

Today the cabarets on Rue Chupaosan were closed to both Loyals and Lepantos, while doubled patrols were on watch on Blood Alley, as investigations were being carried out.

Reg. attach to file

DBR 23/2

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1937

19429

No. S. B. L. 7808
Date 24 2 37

BRITISH SOLDIER BADLY INJURED

Suffers Concussion in Fight with Italian Sailors

NEARLY EIGHTY MEN IN STREET AFFRAY

Two British soldiers, one with severe concussion, were being detained in the British Military Hospital yesterday, while two other soldiers and three or four Italian naval men were injured in a fight late Sunday evening in the Rue Chupaosan between men of the Loyal Regiment and naval ratings off the Italian gunboat Lepanto. The street in question, which is lined with cabarets frequented with service men, was closed to men of both forces yesterday.

The whole affair is still the subject of an investigation by the authorities concerned, and no official statement could be secured yesterday. After sifting the various accounts of eyewitnesses and other interested parties, however, it appears that the trouble really started on Saturday evening, when an argument broke out between two British soldiers and some Italians. This was stopped by the Military Police.

On Sunday evening, however, the Italian seamen apparently turned up in greater numbers. At about 10 p.m., a soldier of the Loyal Regiment in the Charleston Cafe objected to the appropriation of "his girl" by an Italian naval rating, and an argument ensued. Blows were exchanged and with men of both services rallying to the support of their respective men the fight became general.

A number of chairs were broken in the melée that ensued, and bottles began to fly about the place, while the cabaret girls fled; the manager and his assistants attempted to stop the fight, which soon spread into the roadway. The sounds of the trouble penetrated into the Frisco Café, at the corner on the opposite side of the road, and more men rushed into the fray, until observers estimate that about forty British soldiers and a similar body of Italians were engaged.

"Black-Jacks" Used?

It is alleged that the naval ratings, ready for trouble, had armed themselves with "black-jacks" and pieces of lead piping, similar to those used in the Isis Theatre riot of the day before, and that as a result one British soldier was beaten so badly about the head that he suffered a concussion of the brain. French, British and Italian military police and shore patrols, reinforced by French police constables who are always on duty nearby, managed to separate the combatants, and within five minutes or so the fight was over.

The injured men were taken to hospital, three of the soldiers being later released after [illegible]; what injuries were suffered by the Italian sailors could not be [illegible] last night. The whole [illegible] subsequently [illegible] "out of bounds." This order applied to all British servicemen, and [illegible] British [illegible] away last night by the British Military Police.

Last night, the district was quiet. The [illegible]

CP

MB 23 FEB 1937

MG 24/2

DAR 23/2

CHINESE MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. R. REGISTRY.
No. D
Date / /

February 24, 1937. 2. Afternoon Translation

Eastern Times and other local newspapers :-

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHINESE WARDER NO. 97

With reference to the accident involving two motor trucks which occurred at 5.45 a.m. February 22 on Yangtszepoo Road and in which three fish hawkers were killed and four others were injured, the drivers of the two trucks named Chang Keng Foh(張根福) and Woo Shao Yuen (吳兆源) were arrested and arraigned before the Shanghai First Special District Court yesterday morning.

In requesting the Court to issue a writ of detention against the two accused, Assistant Municipal Advocate Chang Tien Ying(張天騰) said:- "When questioned at the Police Station, the second accused, Woo Shao Yuen, driver of truck No. 16499, stated that while driving along Yangtszepoo Road he saw Chinese Warder No. 97 Hong Shuan Tsaung(項善璋) standing on the side of the road signalling his hand for the truck to stop and to give him a lift. The driver stopped his truck and this was the cause of the accident. The Chinese Warder denied the statement and is now in Court."

Chinese Warder No. 97 Hong Shuan Tsaung made the following statement in Court :- "After leaving Ward Road Gaol, I was on Yangtszepoo Road when I heard a noise of the wooden railing of the truck No. 16924 being smashed and saw a number of fish hawkers fall from the truck. I did not ask the truck No. 16499 to stop."

The first accused Chang Keng Foh, driver of the truck No. 16924, stated :- "I drove from the Fish Market with 23 fish hawkers. While passing the place of accident, the truck driven by Woo Shao Yuen suddenly overtook mine from behind and immediately afterwards it suddenly stopped. I turned my truck to the right so as to give way and while making a turn in a westerly direction, the railing on my truck broke down, throwing seven fish hawkers off the truck. The accident was due to the failure of the driver of the other truck to give a signal while stopping."

The second accused Woo Shao Yuen, who was defended by lawyer Van Kong(范剛), stated :- "I had only 8 fish hawkers on my truck. Chinese Warder No. 97 stopped me to give him a lift to Muirhead Road. I then lifted my hand as a signal to the driver of the truck behind me to stop."

Judge Hsiao Sih Feng(蕭寶芬) adjourned the case and ordered the two accused to be remanded in custody.

Lih Pao :-

FIGHT BETWEEN BRITISH AND ITALIAN SERVICEMEN ON RUE CHU PAO SAN

Rue Chu Pao San is usually frequented by foreign marines who go there to dance.

Last Saturday afternoon a quarrel took place between two Italian marines from the "Lepanto" and two British soldiers because a girl taken there by the Italian marines had joined the company of the two soldiers. On the

next day the Italian marines went back to create trouble with the British soldiers. About eighty men were gathered by both sides and a melee took place on the street. They were stopped by the French Police and the Military Police of the two nations. One of the British soldiers sustained a serious injury to his head; minor injuries were suffered by a number of men on both sides.

Both the British and Italian military authorities are making an investigation into the incident. In the meantime their men will not be allowed to go to the cabarets on Rue Chu Pao San.